

J. Sector J - Mineral Mining and Dressing.

1. Covered Stormwater Discharges. The requirements in Part VI for Sector J apply to stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity from active and inactive mineral mining and dressing facilities as identified by the SIC Codes specified below.

SECTOR J: MINERAL MINING AND DRESSING	
1411	Dimension Stone
1422, 1429	Crushed and Broken Stone, Including Rip Rap
1442, 1446	Sand and Gravel
1455, 1459	Clay, Ceramic, and Refractory Materials
1474- 1479	Chemical and Fertilizer Mineral Mining
1481	Nonmetallic Minerals Services, Except Fuels
1499	Miscellaneous Nonmetallic Minerals, Except Fuels

2. Industrial Activities Covered by Sector J.

The types of activities that permittees under Sector J are primarily engaged in are:

- a. exploring for minerals (e.g., stone, sand, clay, chemical and fertilizer minerals, non-metallic minerals, etc.), developing mines and the mining of minerals; and
 - b. mineral dressing, and non-metallic mineral services.
3. Limitations on Coverage. Not authorized by this permit: most stormwater discharges subject to an existing effluent limitation guideline at 40 CFR Part 436. The exceptions to this limitation and which are therefore covered by this General Permit are mine dewatering discharges composed entirely of stormwater or ground water seepage from: construction sand and gravel, industrial sand, and crushed stone mining facilities.
4. Definitions.
 - a. *Mining Operation* - typically consists of three-phases, any one of which individually qualifies as a “mining activity.” The phases are the exploration and construction phase, the active phase and the reclamation phase.
 - b. *Exploration and Construction Phase* - entails exploration and land disturbance activities to determine the financial viability of a site. Construction includes the building of site access roads and removal of overburden and waste rock to expose mineable minerals.
 - c. *Active Phase* - activities including each step from extraction through production of a salable product.
 - d. *Reclamation phase* - activities intended to return the land to its pre-mining state.

NOTE: The following definitions are not intended to supersede the definitions of active and inactive mining facilities established in 06-096CMR200.

- e. *Active Mineral Mining Facility* - a place where work or other activity related to the extraction, removal or recovery of minerals is being conducted. This definition does not include any land where grading has returned the earth to a desired contour and reclamation has begun.
 - f. *Inactive Mineral Mining Facility* - a site or portion of a site where mineral mining and/or dressing occurred in the past but is not an active facility as defined above, and where the inactive portion is not covered by an active permit issued by the applicable State or Federal government agency.
 - g. *Temporarily Inactive Mineral Mining Facility* - a site or portion of a site where mineral mining and/or dressing occurred in the past but currently are not being actively undertaken, and the facility is covered by an active mining permit issued by the applicable State or Federal government agency.
5. **Clearing, Grading and Excavation Activities.** Clearing, grading and excavation activities being conducted as part of the exploration and construction phase of a mineral mining operation cannot be covered under this permit if these activities will disturb one or more acre of land. Instead, coverage for these activities must be under the MEPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities, or an individual construction permit. If the area of disturbance during the initial phase is less than one acre, the permittee must continue to comply with the requirements of this General Permit.
- a. *Obtaining Coverage Under the Construction General Permit.* If the one-acre limit as described in Appendix J(5) is attained, coverage for these activities must be under the MCGP (or individual permit). Discharges in compliance with the provisions of the MCGP are also authorized under the MSGP.
 - b. *Cessation of Exploration and Construction Activities.* If exploration phase clearing, grading and excavation activities are completed and no further mining activities will occur at the site, the permittee must comply with the requirements for terminating the MCGP, i.e., stabilize and revegetate the disturbed land, submit a Notice of Termination, etc. If active mining operations will ensue, the permittee must apply for coverage under this General Permit for the stormwater discharges and be prepared to implement any new requirements prior to beginning the active phase. It is recommended the permittee terminates the coverage under the construction General Permit, but the permittee is not required to do so. If the permittee chooses to not terminate, the permittee will be responsible for complying with all permit conditions of the construction permit in addition to those of this General Permit.
6. **SWPPP Requirements.** In addition to the following requirements, the permittee must also comply with the requirements listed in Part IV of the MSGP.
- a. *Inspections.* (See also Part IV(F)(7)(b)(i)) Conduct quarterly visual inspections of all BMPs at active mining facilities. At temporarily or permanently inactive facilities, perform annual inspections. Include in the inspection program: assessment of the integrity of stormwater discharge diversions, conveyance

systems, sediment control and collection systems and containment structures; inspections to determine if soil erosion has occurred at, or as a result of vegetative BMPs, serrated slopes and benched slopes; inspections of material handling and storage areas and other potential sources of pollution for evidence of actual or potential discharges of contaminated stormwater.

7. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements. (See also Part V)

SECTOR J: MINERAL MINING AND DRESSING- SECTOR SPECIFIC NUMERIC LIMITATIONS			
SIC Code or Activity Code	Subsector (Discharge may be subject to requirements for more than one sector/subsector)	Parameter	Numeric Limitation**
	Mine Dewatering Activities from Crushed and Broken Stone Facilities	TSS pH	25 mg/L, monthly avg. 45 mg/L daily max 6.0-9.0
	Mine Dewatering Activities from Sand and Gravel Mining Facilities	TSS pH	25 mg/L, monthly avg. 45 mg/L daily max 6.0-9.0